

a.) Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing or treating atopic dermatitis in a patient in need thereof, which comprises orally administering or ingesting an effective amount of a peroral preparation comprising hydroxyproline or N-acylated derivative of hydroxyproline, or a salt thereof in an effective amount.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein said peroral preparation comprises 0.1 to 90% by weight hydroxyproline or N-acylated derivative of hydroxyproline, or a salt thereof.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein said peroral preparation comprises 1 to 70% by weight hydroxyproline or N-acylated derivative of hydroxyproline, or a salt thereof.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein said peroral preparation comprises 5 to 50% by weight hydroxyproline or N-acylated derivative of hydroxyproline, or a salt thereof

18. (New) The method according to any one of claims 13 or 15-17, comprising orally administering or ingesting hydroxyproline or a salt thereof.

19. (New) The method according to any one of claims 13 or 15-17, comprising orally administering or ingesting an N-acetylated derivative of hydroxyproline or a salt thereof, wherein the acyl group has 1 to 24 carbon atoms.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein said acyl group has 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein said acyl group is selected from the group consisting of formyl, acetyl, propionyl, butyryl, isobutyryl, valeryl, pivaloyl, hexanoyl, heptanoyl, octanoyl, nonanoyl, decanoyl, undecanoyl and dodecanoyl.

22. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein said acyl group has 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein said acyl group is acetyl, propionyl, butyryl or isobutyryl.

24. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said hydroxyproline or salt thereof is administered or ingested at 100 to 10,000 mg/day.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein said hydroxyproline or salt thereof is administered or ingested at 100 to 2,000 mg/day.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein said hydroxyproline or salt thereof is administered or ingested at 200 to 1,000 mg/day.

27. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein said N-acylated derivative of hydroxyproline or salt thereof is administered or ingested at 100 to 10,000 mg/day.

28. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein said N-acylated derivative of hydroxyproline or salt thereof is administered at 100 to 2,000 mg/day.

29. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein said N-acetylated derivative of hydroxyproline or salt thereof is administered or ingested at 200 to 1,000 mg/day.